

**Crook County Resource Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**November 17, 2003**

Members present: Major Miller, Barbara Jeffres, Wade Pearson, Nels Smith, Ernest Reinhold, Jeanine Dierking, David Hurd, Stormy Burch, Deb Hougham, and Gilbert Wilson.

USFS personnel: Steve Kozel, DFO; Joyce Speidel, recorder; Jeanette Timm, presenter.

Also present: Sarah (Sally) Rogers, representing the City of Sundance and Sundance Canyon residents, Phil Neiman, representing Crook County Road and Bridge, and Brett Ingels, University of Idaho

- 1) Call to order
  - a) In the absence of Committee Chairman, John Shoffstall, the meeting was called to order by Vice Chair- Gilbert Wilson.
  - b) After some discussion concerning the ability to do business with a limited number of members (we are awaiting appointment by the Secretary of Agriculture), **Nels/Major** moved to seat Jeanine Dierking as a voting member with the understanding that if she does not receive the appointment, any business done at this meeting will be redone. Discussion. No opposition. **Motion carried.**
- 2) Introduction of Brett Ingles, Boise State University.
  - a) He is here doing a research project on established RACs.
  - b) Mr. Ingles will be here today and tomorrow afternoon, and all day Wednesday, to conduct interviews and visit with any RAC member that is interested.
- 3) Minutes additions/corrections
  - a) **Nels** wanted, "No, there is no conflict" to be added to previous corrections to September meeting notes in the discussion of his membership to the Sand Creek Country Club.
  - b) He would like KV (Knutson-Vandenberg) and BD (Brush Disposal) to be spelled out first, and then subsequently, abbreviated.
  - c) Mr. Smith would also like Heritage Resources in paragraph 9 a (i) to be identified as part of the Forest Service. He would also like Paragraph 9 b to clarify that fence construction and maintenance to be spent from archeology money (Heritage Resources budget).
  - d) Nels also felt that we needed to further clarify the Cement Ridge project approval to state that Phase 1 of the project was for lookout repairs and Phase 2 was the outhouse. The \$20,000 obligated to this project was for the completion of Phase 1 and part of Phase 2. **Barb seconded.** Discussion. **Motion carried.** Approve the minutes as amended.
- 4) Revised proposal of Upper Redwater Road PP#04-08
  - a) Total estimated cost of remaining mileage \$65,434.00. Numbers are different because the county has already done 3.3 miles, only 2.6 miles left. Major- Fixing some of the blind spots/ do we have any more contact with the landowner?

Stormy- address safety issues with signage. Discussion of right of way. Dave/Wade moved to fund in accordance with last year's agreement of \$43,886 for materials. Discussion. **Nels/Barb** moved to amend material costs for gravel and magwater in the amount of \$37,500. Discussion. **Motion carried.** One opposed. Steve Kozel informed the group that Floyd Canfield, Chairman of the Crook County Commissioners, had asked if a subset of folks could come to a county commissioner's meeting to discuss this proposal with the commissioners in January.

- 5) Scott Tangenberg and Brad Harris were not able to attend the meeting, they would like to defer until a later date.
- 6) A survey was passed around by the Boise State University representative. Committee members were able to fill the survey out during the meeting. Study objectives: What is the level of support for this law to continue after 2006? What are the factors that will be problematic for this law? What do the RAC members want changed if the law would be continued? How has Stable Payment affected counties? Some of the information will be used by congressionals when they look to have the law renewed. Next step is the full study of how Title 3 funds are being used. Results will be shared with the RAC. A copy of the preliminary and final reports will be sent to Steve to be shared with the group.
- 7) Stormy asked to be excused. There remains a quorum, because Merle is here from Category C.
- 8) Jeanette Timm- Project Proposals
  - a) Youth Conservation Corp- **Ernie/ Dave** move to fund in amount requested. \$12,240.00 for five youth and one crew leader. **Motion carried.**
  - b) Bearlodge Campground Improvement and Bearlodge Campground Bathroom Improvements- Oldest campground on the district. Two part project proposed. Old bathroom vault has health and safety concerns. Sewage is leaching into the ground around it. Part of the campground could be made handicap accessible. The bathrooms should also be handicap accessible. Priorities? The bathroom. Matching funds are available from the Forest Service. No water is available at this site.
  - c) Cook Lake Trails project- 1997 Landslide caused considerable damage. In 2001 the trail was rebuilt on west side of the Lake. The Forest Service is currently looking at doing Segment 2 of the Trail. We plan to make this segment handicap accessible. The Forest Service will replace the handpump with an accessible pump, rearrange picnic tables for accommodation to all users of the Lake. This trail project will get people off the road; currently users must walk this part of the trail along the road. We would like to make the water accessible to those in wheelchairs. Jeanette would like to recommend tabling this proposal until January to see if we get funding from Wyoming Trails. **Nels-** so moved. The entire project anticipated cost \$60,000. We are trying to partner with many people to see this accomplished. Jeanine- do we want to use wooden boardwalks? Recycled boardwalk? **Barb seconded to table. Motion carried.**
- 9) Sarah Rogers (Sally)- Representing the landowners of the Canyon and the City of Sundance. Sally gave an overview of project proposal #04-11.

- a) Discussion. Have you contacted Wyoming State Forestry Division? No. Why isn't the City of Sundance here to apply instead of the residents? Sarah is representing the City and the Residents. Who is assuming the liability of this project? If someone should get hurt, who would pay? The Department of Corrections/ Conservation Camp (Newcastle Honor Farm) would be covering their own liability. All the labor will actually be done by the Honor Farm. If funding of the chipper is available, the Honor Farm will commit to this project. They would like to know as soon as possible if they are going to be requested. At this time there are eight men available. The residents would not be running the chipper. Ownership of the chipper may become an issue. Legalities? How does this project fit the criteria for funding from the RAC? Fuels reduction in the canyon does represent a benefit to the National Forest because of the proximity to the Forest. Addressing the storm damage is a benefit to the National Forest.
  - b) General consensus of the group was that the City of Sundance should be the primary sponsor of this project proposal. **Merle/Wade** moved to **deny** the request. Discussion. **Motion carried.** Gib suggested to Sally that she contact State Division of Forestry. Are we willing to have the City present the proposal? Committee's suggestion was to contact State Forestry to see what they had to offer. Sally can come back and present project again with modifications.
- 10) Bearlodge Campground Improvements-
- a) Discussion- funding available to cover half of the costs? Yes. How much do we have to spend on these two projects? A quick assessment of the funds available looks like about \$37,000. Can check into ADA money. What grants are available? \$23,000 available from the Forest.
  - b) Which is a higher priority for the forest this year? The truck trail or the recreation projects (Bearlodge Campground/bathroom improvements and Cook Lake trails)? Looks like we only have money available for one of these projects.
  - c) We have to have Brad here to get the fuller picture concerning the truck trail. When we do the truck trail, we need to address some winter recreation concerns with the truck trail fuelbreak. Steve's thinking is that we may have the money available for the truck trail from other areas, including the sale of the timber for the truck trail. The commercial timber would be sold first, then the service work can be done. NEPA will be done this summer. This can be considered a Watershed project. Steve's view on watershed restoration is anything we can do to reduce the fire risk and preserve the watershed can be considered a watershed project.
  - d) Jeanine- Can you get grants from ADA for the bathrooms? Jeanette has not looked into it. Nels directed Jeanette to check out that option. **Ernie/Nels** table until more information is gathered. **Motion carried.** (PP #04-07).
  - e) PP #04-05- Bearlodge Campground Improvement requesting \$5000- Barb/Jeanine moved to fund the total \$5000. Discussion. **Barb** changed the motion to **\$2500. Nels** seconded. **Motion carried.**
- 11) No members of public were here for the public forum.
- 12) Brett set up interviews with members of the RAC.
- 13) December meeting? Do we expect any more proposals? Not at this time. **Dave/ Deb** moved to not hold December meeting. Discussion. **Motion carried.**

14) Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Speidel